

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ABSTRACT

Public Services - Forest Department – Disciplinary action against Sri S. Jagannatha Rao, Forest Beat Officer (Retd), Certain irregularities committed in execution of SMC works under RIDF-IX in Vizianagaram - Inquiry finalized and findings received - Imposition of penalty of 1% cut in pension for a period of one (1) year - Show-Cause-Notice issued – Explanation received – Final orders - Issued.

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ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 100

Dated: 19-12-2014

Read the following:

1. From the Prl.C.CF, Lr.Rc.No.52947/2005/K1, dt:2-11-2010.
2. Govt.Memo.No.5089/For.IV/A2/2011-1, Dt.01-08-2011.
3. Govt.Memo.No.5089/For.IV/A2/2011-2, Dt.13-09-2011 & 2-11-2011.
4. From the Prl.C.CF, Lr.Rc.No.52947/2005/K1, dt:2-11-2011.
5. Govt.Memo.No.5089/For.IV/A2/2011-4, Dt.23-12-2011.
6. Explanation of Sri S. Jagannatha Rao, FBO (Retd), dt:25.02.2012.
7. Govt.Lr.No.5089/For.IV/A2/2011-7, Dt.17-02-2014.
8. From the Secy. APPSC Lr. No.679/RT/3/2014, Dt:30.05.2014.

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ORDER:

In the reference 1<sup>st</sup> read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P. Hyderabad has informed that Articles of Charge were issued against Sri S. Jagannatha Rao, Forest Beat Officer (Retd), Kankanapalli Beat of Saluru Range for the irregularities committed by him in execution of SMC works under RIDF-IX (SMC) Scheme in Vizianagaram Division, by the Divisional Forest Officer, Vizianagaram, under Rule 20 of A.P. Civil Services (CCA) Rules, 1991, vide Ref.No.5479/05/S3, dt:14.12.2005. on the following count:

**Article:-**

“That he had while working as Forest Beat Officer, Kankanapalli Beat of Saluru Range exhibited gross neglect of duty and lack of devotion to duty by causing irregularities while carrying out certain SMC works executed under RIDF-IX (SMC) Scheme causing loss to the Government to a tune of Rs.17,653/- to his share”.

**Article:-**

“That he had while working as Forest Beat Officer, Kankanapalli Beat of Saluru Range exhibited gross neglect of duty and lack of devotion to duty by defeating the purpose of RIDF-IX (SMC) Scheme, by executing the SMC works with machines and by false recording of M.Books and submission of false accounts”.

2. The Charged Officer has acknowledged the Article of Charge on 23-12-2005 and submitted explanation on 23-12-2005. Not satisfied with explanation, the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, appointed the Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam as Common Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam as Presenting Officer vide Proc.No.52947/2005/PXA3, dt:13.10.2006. The Inquiry Officer has conducted the inquiry and concluded that the execution of works is not as per specifications and standards confined to sanctioned estimates.

3. The findings of the Inquiry Officer have been communicated to the Charged Officer vide his office final notice dt:13-01-2008 for submission of further defence statement if any. The Charged Officer has acknowledge the final notice on 21-03-2008 and submitted his further defence statement on 24-03-2008, in which he stated that he has executed the SMC works in the section during 2005-2006 confined to sanctioned DSOs by the Divisional Forest Officer, Vizianagaram. He contended that there is no loss to Government as the deviation amount was recovered and got remitted into the Government account which made good of the loss sustained to Government.

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4. The findings of the Inquiry Officer have been verified with reference to the records and it is noticed that the execution of works is not as per specifications and standards confined to sanctioned estimates. The contention of the Charged Officer that the works were carried out manually as per resolutions of the VSS members is not tenable as no such copies of resolutions are deposited by the VSS members. The Contention of the Charged Officer that the entire work is executed manually is not correct as the works found on the ground noticed as was executed partly through machine and found sign paths on the ground. The Inquiry Officer has also stated that though they are not surveyed according to the condition of the area, where the works were got executed or assessed the deviation as per the observation only. The recovery and repayments of the deviation amount confirm the irregularity by the inspecting officials to sustain. The entire purpose of giving the labour to the poor is defeated. The Prl.CCF has finally stated that the Charged Officer has remitted the entire amount as fixed by the Divisional Forest Officer, Vizianagaram as his share into the Government account and hence there is no loss sustained to the Government. All the Charges are proved against the Charged Officer.

5. The Charged Officer Sri S. Jagannatha Rao, Deputy Range Officer has retired from service on attaining the age of superannuation on 31-1-2010. Hence, the disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9 (2) of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 and requested the Government to pass suitable orders in the matter.

6. Government after careful examination of the matter, with reference to the enquiry officer's report, material made available, observe that the charges framed against the Charged Officer were held proved. Hence, it is provisionally decided to impose a penalty of 1% cut in pension for (1) one year against the Charged Officer Sri S. Jagannatha Rao, Deputy Range Officer (Retd) formerly Vizianagaram Division under rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

7. Accordingly, a Show-Cause-Notice was issued to the retired officer vide reference 5<sup>th</sup> read above. The Charged Officer submitted his further explanation through the reference 6<sup>th</sup> read above and in which he has requested the Government to close the Article of Charge. The concurrence of Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission has been obtained vide reference 8<sup>th</sup> read above.

8. Government after careful examination of the matter hereby order to impose the penalty of 1% cut in pension for (1) one year against the Charged Officer Sri S. Jagannatha Rao, Deputy Range Officer (Retd) formerly Vizianagaram Division under rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

9. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P. Hyderabad is requested to take action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

S.P. SINGH  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To  
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.  
The Individual (through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests).

Copy to:  
The Accountant General (A&E) A.P., Hyderabad.  
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Hyderabad, A.P.  
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Hyderabad(with ref. to  
Lr. No.679/RT/3/2014, Dt:30.05.2014.)  
Sf./Sc.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER